



Rev March 11, 2014

**TESTIMONY TO THE
BUDGET COMMITTEES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Regarding

THE USM FY2015 CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST

Including Response to Analysis concerning

ITEM RB36

USG BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES & ENGINEERING EDUCATION BLDG

AND

FACILITIES RENEWAL (STATEWIDE)

By William E. Kirwan, Chancellor

Good Afternoon. It is my pleasure to be here to discuss the Capital Improvement Program for the University System of Maryland. As I did when testifying in support of System's Operating Budget last month, I'd like to start by thanking Governor O'Malley and the members of this committee for the support you have provided the University System of Maryland over the years. We are proud of the productive relationship we have forged with the leadership in Annapolis to advance our mutual priorities.

THE USM CAPITAL BUDGET

As a System office, we urge full funding of the Governor's FY2015 budget recommendations for all System institutions. We rely heavily on our campus infrastructure to deliver quality academic programs and house critical research. During these hearings, each president is responding on behalf of their own institutions; and I would like to add my own voice in support for their needs. We understand your desire to balance the needs of higher education against a variety of other needs in an environment of constrained resources and we appreciate your consideration on behalf of all System institutions. We know you're making difficult choices to accommodate these needs and we urge your continued support.

BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES & ENGINEERING EDUCATION FACILITY (SHADY GROVE)

We concur with the analyst's recommendation for continued funding. The University System of Maryland and the Universities at Shady Grove greatly appreciate your support of the new 220,000 GSF/135,414 NASF innovative Biomedical Sciences and Engineering Education Facility (BSE). This instructional facility, located in Montgomery County along the I-270 corridor, is programmed to support the needs of the region's projected workforce, especially in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medical sciences (STEMM). With the addition of the BSE, USG will be able to provide state-of-the-art laboratories, active learning classrooms, clinical training facilities, academic offices, and an expanded level of student services necessary for program and enrollment growth in these fields.

USG is a unique and highly successful consortium of nine public universities of the USM offering quality higher education at a single location in Montgomery County. The USG campus currently provides access to more than 80 high-demand, degree and certificate programs for upper-level undergraduate and for graduate students. The new BSE building is unique in that it:

- Builds on USG's primary mission as a regional higher education center focused on expanding access to affordable higher education that is cost efficiently delivered and attentive to regional workforce needs.
- Supports three USM research universities that have collaborated to bring to the region advanced degree education in high technology and medical science fields. The BSE supports UMCP and UMB, through the MPower initiative, to advance a vision for realizing unique instructional and research collaborations. It also expands the UMBC presence at USG and enables UMBC's faculty and degree programs to collaborate with its sister USM institutions. By doing so, it builds on UMBC's recognized national reputation for educating minorities in the sciences (a population of students in the majority at USG).
- Enables instructional facilities to be shared across disciplines and degree programs, increasing efficiencies and opportunities for curricular innovations.
- Adds degree programs that are supported by a robust array of corporate partners in the region including engineering companies, health and bioscience companies, and federal research laboratories and institutions. All of these organizations are committed to providing internships, education partnerships and jobs that will advance the regional and state economy now and far into the future. These partnerships, which include USG's already strong relationships with the K-12 and regional community colleges, will produce STEM graduates through the most cost-effective and efficient delivery of higher education in the State.

SYSTEM-WIDE FACILITIES RENEWAL (STATEWIDE)

We concur with the analyst's recommendation that the System-wide Facilities Renewal (FR) budget be funded in full. These funds are a critical piece of our overall facilities renewal program and we sincerely appreciate your support. These funds are just a part of an overall approach the Regents are taking to address the problem of deferred maintenance. The Board's program also encourages increases in operating expenditure for facilities renewal toward an annual spending target equal to 2% of the replacement value of campus facilities, as well as a high proportion of renovation and replacement projects in the capital improvement program. We consider it an investment in excellence.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, let me once again thank you for your attention to our needs. We would be happy to entertain any questions you might have.

*Please direct questions or comments to: Mark Beck, USM Office of Capital Planning
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